

REMARKS

This is a Request for Continued Examination of the above-identified application. The Official Action of January 2, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. 102, and 35 U.S.C. 103. The rejection was made final. The drawings stand objected to.

By the foregoing claims 1-3 are cancelled and new claims 4-7 are added to recite the subject matter of the invention.

As discussed in the responses to earlier Office Action and as now claimed, the present invention provides a waste bin assembly for receiving and accommodating waste deposited in the assembly. The waste bin assembly includes a plurality of waste-receiving compartments. A mounting unit is securable to the underside of an elevated work surface for suspending the plural waste-receiving compartments from the elevated work surface. An elongated shaft extends from the mounting unit at one end of the shaft to the plural waste-receiving compartments at the opposite end of the shaft. The plural waste-receiving compartments are detachably secured to the shaft. The plural waste-receiving compartments are thereby suspended from the shaft without direct support from the underlying floor surface. A bearing in the mounting unit enables selective axial rotation of the shaft and suspended components for enhanced user access to selected individual ones of the plural waste-receiving compartments.

In contrast, the art cited by the Examiner, namely U.S. Patent No. 4,971,234 to Hay, U.S. Patent No. 5,101,997 to Bagwell et al., and U.S. Patent No. 1,961,922 to Brandstetter, teach assemblies that incorporate at least one member that directly supports the assembly on a floor surface underlying the waste containers. None of the cited art, alone or in

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combination discloses, teaches, or suggests the presently claimed inventive structure as described above and herein claimed, wherein an elongated shaft extends from a mounting unit at one end of the shaft that is securable to the underside of an elevated work surface for suspending plural waste-receiving compartments from an elevated work surface, to the plural waste-receiving compartments disposed at the opposite end of the shaft.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 4-7 are patentable over the cited art and, in particular, the Examiner's proffered combination of Hay, Bagwell, and Brandstetter. Allowance of pending claims 4 to 7 is earnestly requested, and early notification to that effect is solicited.

Turning now to the drawing objection, a substitute drawing of Fig. 2 is enclosed. Replacement Fig. 2 has been modified to show the location of a cross-sectional cut, namely section A-A. New drawing Fig. 3 has been added to depict the tubular square hollow profile of central shaft 1. Support for these drawing changes can be found at page 1, lines 34-37 and the specification as a whole.

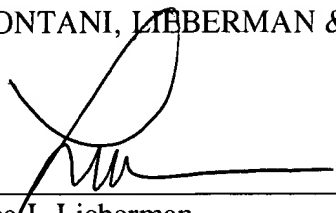
No new matter has been added to the application. Drawing Fig. 2., with changes indicated in red, and drawing Figs. 2 and 3 without such red-markings, are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the drawing objection be withdrawn.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; nevertheless, if any fees or charges are deemed necessary at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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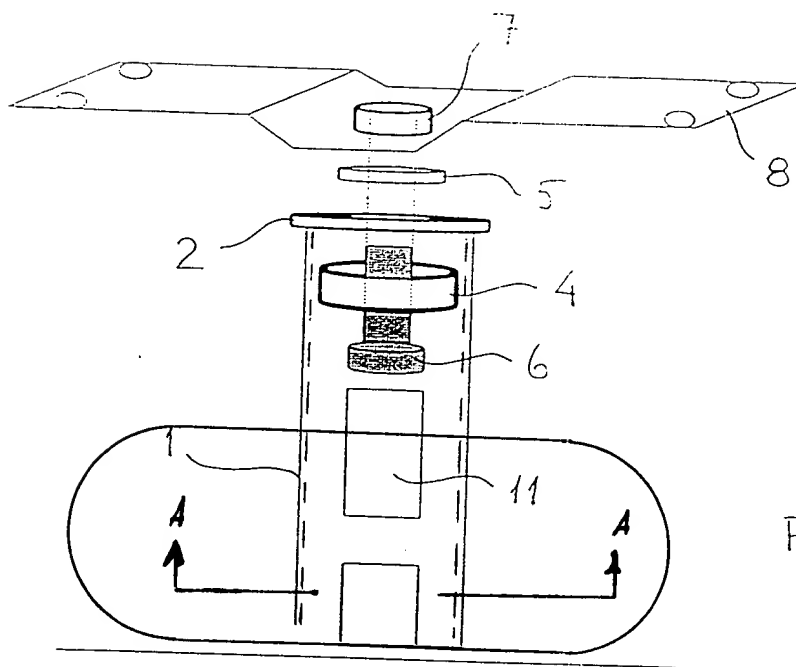


FIG 2

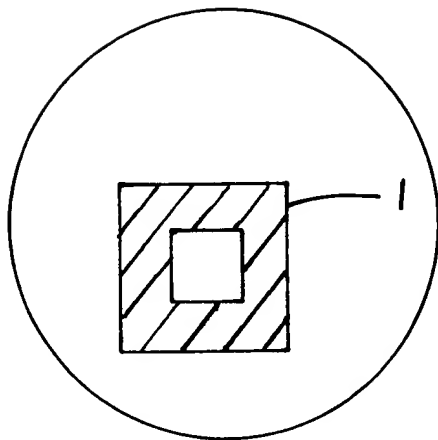


FIG. 3